PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

DECEMBER 1998

MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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MBS 98-12

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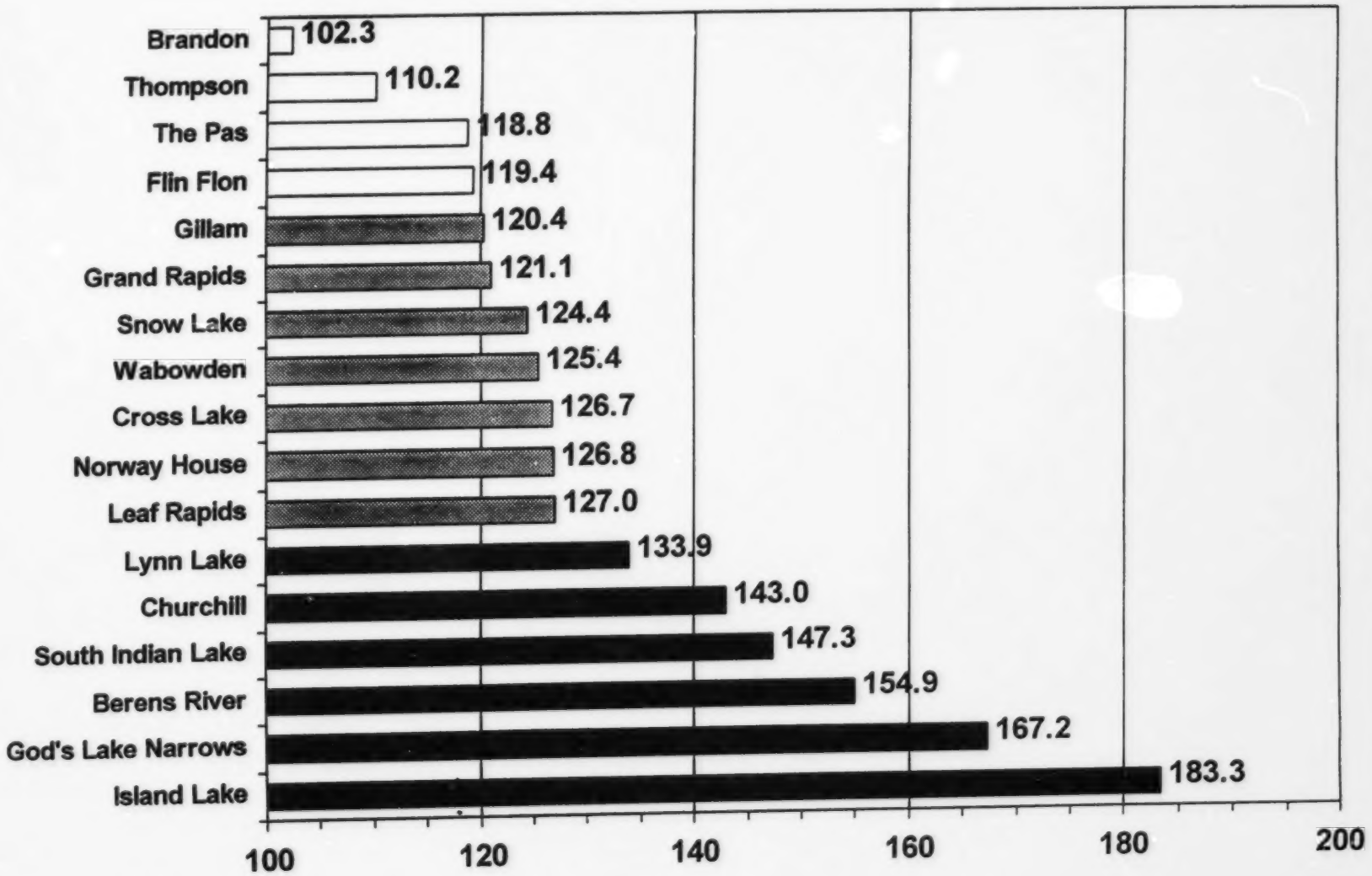
MARCH 1999

1998 Community Food Price Indices



Introduction:

In December of each year, the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) conducts the Food Prices Monitoring Survey. The survey's objective is to collect, tabulate and disseminate current information on the relative cost of food for home consumption in various Manitoba communities. Geographically, the survey includes Winnipeg and Brandon in southern Manitoba as well as a number of communities in northern Manitoba.

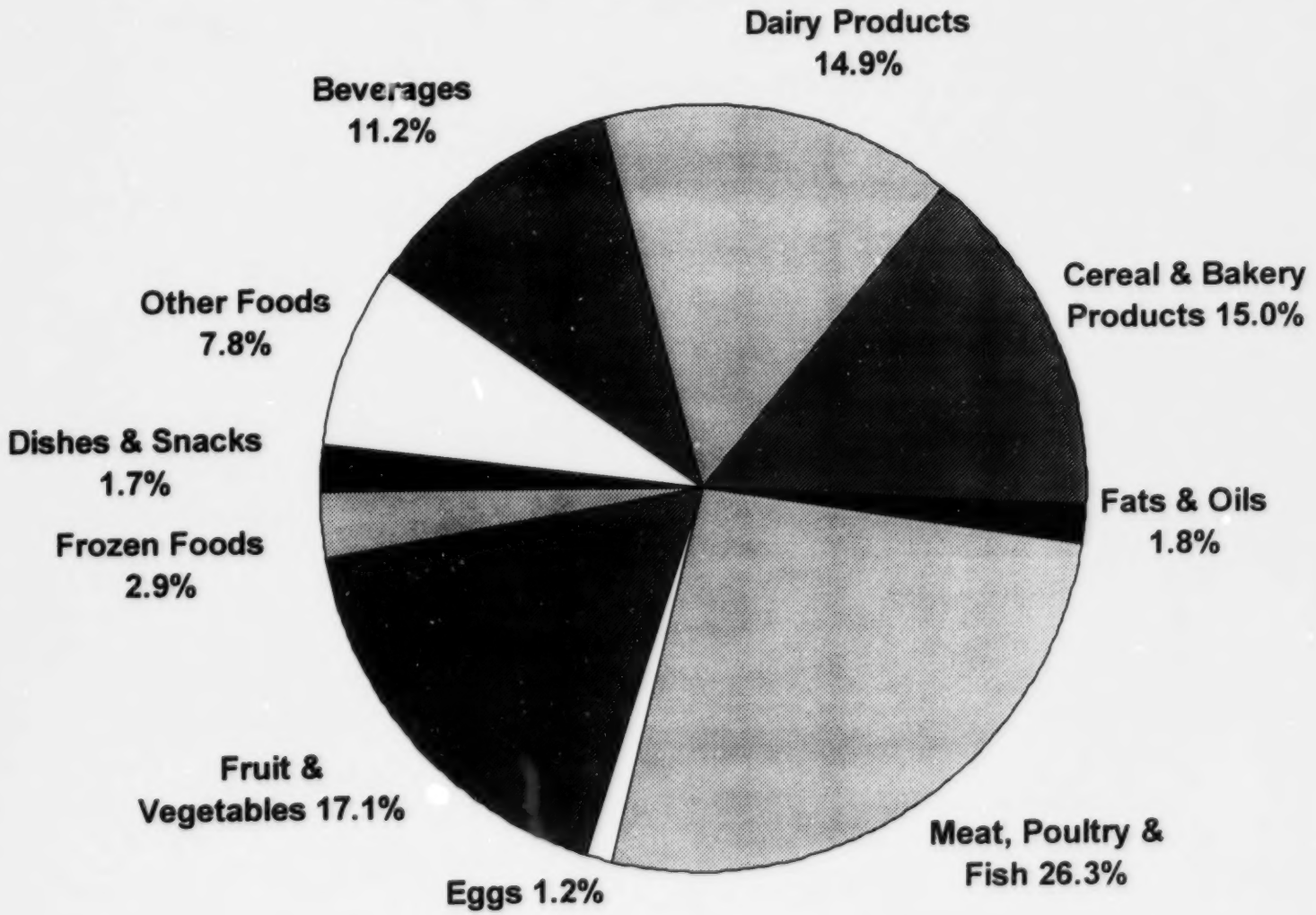
A Winnipeg weighting scheme, containing food weights from the Consumer Price Index, is used for all communities. This assumes that residents in the other communities have a similar food consumption pattern to Winnipeg residents. That is, they spend the same proportion of their food dollar on the various food groups.

Table 1 presents the spatial indices for the 17 communities surveyed in December 1998. A spatial index is a place-to-place comparison of prices at a particular point in time. In the MBS survey, the reference community is Winnipeg. Thus, calculated spatial indices represent the relative price differential between each community and Winnipeg.

Table 2 presents the average prices, on a matched brand basis, of a subset of the food items priced in Winnipeg and the other 17 communities in December 1998.

Tables 3 and 4, in the appendix, present the spatial indices and the average prices of a subset of the food items sampled in the December 1997 Prices Monitoring Survey.

1998 Food Group Weights



I. Spatial Food Indices:

Spatial Food Indices were produced for 17 Manitoba communities in 1998. Community indices range from a low of 102.3 for Brandon to a high of 183.3 for Island Lake. That is, on a weighted average basis Brandon prices are 2.3% higher than Winnipeg prices and Island Lake prices are 83.3% higher than Winnipeg prices.

Indices are calculated by comparing the average price of food items from retail stores in each community to the average price of the same item (matched for brand and size) from Winnipeg's major retail grocery chains. The survey is based upon a food basket containing ten food groups, weighted with the current Consumer Price Index food weights for Winnipeg, as follows.

FOOD GROUP	GROUP WEIGHT (%)
Dairy Products	14.9
Cereal & Bakery Products	15.0
Fats & Oils	1.8
Meat, Poultry & Fish	26.3
Eggs	1.2
Fruit & Vegetables	17.1
Frozen Foods	2.9
Dishes & Snacks	1.7
Other Foods	7.8
Beverages	11.2
TOTAL FOOD BASKET	100.0 %

In the 1998 survey, as for previous years, the larger communities have the lowest indices; Brandon at 102.3, Thompson at 110.2, The Pas at 118.8 and Flin Flon at 119.4.

Seven other communities have indices between 120.0 and 130.0: Gillam at 120.4, Grand Rapids at 121.1, Snow Lake at 124.4, Wabowden at 125.4, Cross Lake at 126.7, Norway House at 126.8 and Leaf Rapids at 127.0.

The food price index for Lynn Lake is estimated at 133.9, while Churchill is estimated at 143.0, South Indian Lake is estimated at 147.3 and Berens River is estimated at 154.9.

The two communities with the highest indices in 1998, as for previous years, are God's Lake Narrows at 167.2 and Island Lake at 183.3.

TABLE 1: SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDEXES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD GROUPS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
	(WINNIPEG = 100.0)								
DAIRY PRODUCTS	185.0	100.9	155.7	132.5	118.9	130.9	200.1	133.7	233.5
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUC	148.3	102.2	138.7	123.7	114.4	107.6	149.5	114.7	169.4
FATS & OILS	148.5	101.4	125.4	121.8	119.0	105.8	166.9	104.5	159.2
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	130.2	103.2	126.1	120.2	119.2	119.2	167.0	108.9	161.4
Meat	131.7	104.3	130.4	119.8	120.4	122.0	175.2	107.0	151.7
Poultry	129.1	100.4	118.6	128.2	113.6	114.6	162.0	109.6	178.2
Fish	122.4	101.3	112.5	108.4	122.1	109.4	123.3	119.6	192.6
EGGS	133.4	103.3	125.3	133.1	115.3	122.3	169.5	137.1	199.2
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	183.1	100.6	153.5	126.4	119.4	130.4	177.0	130.7	216.6
Fresh Fruit	202.9	97.6	158.9	123.3	112.4	134.9	161.9	143.0	228.2
Processed Fruit	161.2	101.9	145.8	126.8	124.9	117.9	167.5	112.1	184.4
Fresh Vegetables	189.4	101.1	159.9	129.5	120.5	139.0	206.2	132.3	243.8
Processed Vegetables	141.2	107.0	130.2	127.1	128.6	115.0	156.0	125.4	158.6
FROZEN FOODS	154.3	104.6	143.3	133.6	120.1	110.1	158.4	111.5	179.9
DISHES & SNACKS	144.8	106.1	158.9	124.8	120.9	121.2	166.0	133.0	166.0
OTHER FOODS	151.3	102.4	138.1	132.9	114.6	112.5	155.0	116.6	165.3
BEVERAGES	146.4	103.6	160.9	133.3	130.9	121.1	143.6	131.5	153.9
COMMUNITY INDEX	154.9	102.3	143.0	126.7	119.4	120.4	167.2	121.1	193.3

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

Community Indices Less Than 120:

Four communities consistently have the lowest food price indices in comparison to Winnipeg. For 1998 these indices are Brandon at 102.3, Thompson at 110.2, The Pas at 118.8 and Flin Flon at 119.4.

In Brandon, food group indices range from 100.6 for Fruit & Vegetables to 106.1 for Dishes & Snacks. Dishes & Snacks is also the only food group for which a community other than Brandon has the lowest index. Thompson has the lowest index among communities surveyed for Dishes & Snacks (105.5).

Thompson, with an overall food price index of 110.2, has food group indices ranging from 105.5 for Dishes & Snacks to 114.9 for Dairy Products; a spread of only 9.4 between highest and lowest food groups. The next highest food group indices in Thompson are for Beverages at 112.7 and Cereal & Bakery Products at 111.8.

The Pas has an overall food price index of 118.8. Food group indices range from 113.4 for Meat, Poultry & Fish to 137.5 for Dishes & Snacks; a spread of 24.1 points. The next highest food group indices in The Pas are for Beverages (126.7), Other Foods (123.5) and Dairy Products (123.3).

Flin Flon has an overall food price index of 119.4, with food group indices ranging from 114.4 for Cereal & Bakery Products to 130.9 for Beverages; a spread of 16.5 points. The next highest food group indices in Flin Flon are for Dishes & Snacks (120.9) and Frozen Foods (120.1).

Community Indices from 120 to 130:

Seven other communities in the survey have relatively low indices; between 120.0 and 130.0. They are Gillam at 120.4, Grand Rapids at 121.1, Snow Lake at 124.4, Wabowden at 125.4, Cross Lake at 126.7, Norway House at 126.8 and Leaf Rapids at 127.0.

Among these seven communities, food groups tending to have lower indices are Meat, Poultry & Fish, Fats & Oils and Cereal & Bakery Products. Food groups tending to have higher indices include Beverages, Dairy Products, Eggs and Frozen Foods.

In Gillam, the food group with the highest prices relative to Winnipeg is Dairy Products (index 130.9); the food group with prices closest to Winnipeg is Fats & Oils (index 105.8). The range between highest and lowest food group indices is 25.1 points.

Fats & Oils also has the lowest food group index in Grand Rapids at 104.5, and Leaf Rapids at 114.5. In Grand Rapids, Eggs has the highest food group index at 137.1 (range of 32.6 points), and in Leaf Rapids, Fruit & Vegetables has the highest food group index at 135.9 (range of 21.4 points).

In Snow Lake, Wabowden and Cross Lake, Meat, Poultry & Fish has the lowest food group index; 113.9, 114.8 and 120.2 respectively. In Norway House, Fruit & Vegetables has the lowest food group index at 121.1. In both Norway House and Wabowden, Beverages has the highest food group index; 135.5 for Norway House and 140.5 for Wabowden. In both Snow Lake and Cross Lake, Frozen Foods has the highest food group index; 133.8 for Snow Lake and 133.6 for Cross Lake.

TABLE 1: (Cont.) **SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDEXES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD GROUPS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN
	(WINNIPEG = 100.0)							
DAIRY PRODUCTS	129.8	132.6	129.1	130.7	203.6	123.3	114.9	136.8
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUC	126.0	128.9	127.2	122.3	132.5	115.5	111.8	119.8
FATS & OILS	114.5	127.7	123.4	122.4	116.0	118.6	106.0	128.0
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	123.5	121.6	123.6	113.9	120.8	113.4	108.5	114.8
Meat	123.8	122.6	127.3	116.1	117.0	112.7	110.9	119.1
Poultry	129.2	119.5	109.4	106.5	132.0	115.4	102.8	97.5
Fish	110.9	119.7	126.1	113.3	124.5	114.0	103.9	118.9
EGGS	116.8	134.6	134.7	120.6	151.3	131.9	105.7	131.0
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	135.9	147.9	121.1	129.2	174.3	115.5	108.9	121.6
Fresh Fruit	150.8	158.7	112.8	131.6	194.7	108.8	108.9	127.7
Processed Fruit	126.5	132.1	110.9	129.6	128.3	114.6	102.4	119.2
Fresh Vegetables	129.3	152.0	132.6	127.4	195.5	121.1	113.1	113.6
Processed Vegetables	125.8	131.7	137.9	125.3	138.0	123.9	110.3	131.5
FROZEN FOODS	121.5	135.0	130.2	133.8	124.0	120.3	108.3	131.8
DISHES & SNACKS	128.0	149.8	123.6	129.1	148.0	137.5	105.5	130.9
OTHER FOODS	118.3	132.6	131.6	125.2	130.4	123.5	106.3	131.4
BEVERAGES	130.2	149.2	135.5	133.2	135.2	126.7	112.7	140.5
COMMUNITY INDEX	127.0	133.9	126.8	124.4	147.3	118.8	110.2	125.4

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

Community Indices from 130 to 160:

Four communities in the December 1998 survey are identified as having medium high indices (i.e., between 130.0 and 160.0): Lynn Lake at 133.9, Churchill at 143.0, South Indian Lake at 147.3 and Berens River at 154.9. All of these communities are more remote (i.e., more difficult to get to) than all the communities with lower indices, but more accessible than the 2 remaining communities with indices in excess of 160.0.

In Lynn Lake and Berens River, the food group with the lowest index is Meat, Poultry & Fish; 121.6 and 130.2 respectively. Meat, Poultry & Fish also has the third lowest food group index in Churchill (126.1) and second lowest in South Indian Lake (120.8).

In Churchill, Eggs has the lowest food group index (125.3), and Fats & Oils is second lowest (125.4). Fats & Oils is also second lowest for Lynn Lake (127.7) and lowest for South Indian Lake (116.0). Eggs has the second lowest food group index (133.4) for Berens River.

In South Indian Lake and Berens River, the food groups with the highest indices are Dairy Products and Fruit & Vegetables. The index for Dairy Products is 203.6 for South Indian Lake and 185.0 for Berens River, while the index for Fruit & Vegetables is 174.3 for South Indian Lake and 183.1 for Berens River. Fruit & Vegetables has the third highest index for Lynn Lake, at 147.9.

The food group with the highest index for Lynn Lake is Dishes & Snacks (149.8), which is second highest for Churchill (158.9). The food group with the highest index for Churchill is Beverages (160.9), which is second highest for Lynn Lake (149.2).

Community Indices Greater Than 160:

God's Lake Narrows and Island Lake consistently have the highest food price indices among communities surveyed each year. For December 1998, these indices are 167.2 for God's Lake Narrows and 183.3 for Island Lake.

Island Lake has the highest food group index for seven of the ten food groups. God's Lake Narrows has the highest index for Fats & Oils (166.9) and Meat, Poultry & Fish (167.0), and Churchill has the highest index for Beverages (160.9).

In both God's Lake Narrows and Island Lake, Dairy Products has the highest food group index, followed by Fruit & Vegetables and Eggs. The Dairy Products index is 200.1 for God's Lake Narrows and 233.5 for Island Lake. The Fruit & Vegetables index is 177.0 for God's Lake Narrows and 216.6 for Island Lake. The Eggs index is 169.5 for God's Lake Narrows and 199.2 for Island Lake.

In God's Lake Narrows, Beverages has the lowest food group index (143.6), followed by Cereal & Bakery Products (149.5) and Other Foods (155.0). In Island Lake, Beverages also has the lowest food group index (153.9), followed by Fats & Oils (159.2) and again Other Foods (165.3).

TABLE 2: AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD ITEMS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
1 L MILK	...	1.25	1.83	1.49	1.27	1.46	...	1.50	2.79
454 G BUTTER	4.19	2.92	3.29	3.69	3.29	3.31	3.69	3.45	3.99
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	7.89	5.99	7.45	7.94	7.94	6.49	7.69	...	8.39
525 G CORN FLAKES	5.29	3.79	4.19	4.39	4.09	3.65	4.49	3.65	4.89
5 KG FLOUR	11.19	6.19	10.39	8.34	9.29	8.15	...	8.49	...
500 G MACARONI	1.99	1.49	...	1.54	1.94	...	...	1.69	2.19
675 G WHITE BREAD	3.19	1.99	...	...	2.05	...	3.29	...	...
907 G MARGARINE	...	4.64	5.99	5.44	5.04	4.85	...	...	7.19
1 L COOKING OIL	5.49	3.79	4.92	...	4.09	3.95	5.09	3.76	5.59
1 KG ROUND STEAK	11.35	7.78	...	11.05	9.95	9.69	13.99	7.05	11.99
1 KG BLADE ROAST	8.45	7.25	...	5.89	5.71	7.89	9.66	...	...
1 KG STEWING BEEF	9.27	6.00	7.31	6.62	6.76	7.19	...	7.06	...
1 KG GROUND BEEF	...	2.83	5.69	...	3.91	...	7.49	...	...
500 G BACON	...	4.79	4.29	4.89	4.47	...	...	...	...
1 KG PORK CHOPS	9.04	8.58	8.17	8.04	5.37	5.69	...	...	11.19
450 G WEINERS	...	3.74	3.39	3.49	3.69	3.49	...	...	...
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.89	2.99	3.24	3.39	3.02	2.79	3.45	3.04	3.49
1 KG CHICKEN	5.93	4.39	5.29	5.89	...	5.79	6.89	5.19	8.39
213 G PINK SALMON	2.49	2.19	...	...	2.64	2.05	...	...	...
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	2.24	1.79	2.09	2.25	1.97	1.99	2.89	2.30	3.39
1 KG ORANGES	5.11	2.18	...	3.51	...	2.40	...	2.88	4.49
1 KG APPLES	...	...	2.89	2.40	2.40	2.75	3.67	3.40	4.99
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	2.59	1.89	2.09	2.19	2.19	1.89	2.39	1.82	2.98
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.79	1.74	2.29	1.94	1.92	...	3.39	1.66	2.79
4.54 KG POTATOES	6.54	2.74	6.49	3.14	3.39	3.25	8.99	3.56	10.99
1 HEAD LETTUCE	1.78	1.14	1.23	1.14	1.19	1.39	2.39	0.85	1.23
907 G CARROTS	2.42	0.98	1.60	1.09	1.04	...	2.69	1.16	2.99
1.36 KG ONIONS	...	1.27	...	1.74	1.54	1.80	...	1.97	4.89
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.99	1.39	...	1.69	1.44	1.35	1.79	1.42	...
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.64	1.04	1.49	1.44	1.24	1.05	1.99	1.12	1.89
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	4.54	2.69	3.39	...	2.89	3.79	4.49	...	...
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.29	0.99	1.49	1.39	1.17	1.35	1.79	1.20	1.89
284 ML CANNED SOUP	1.14	0.73	1.23	0.74	0.82	0.85	1.09	0.93	1.29
4 KG SUGAR	6.74	3.99	6.59	5.04	5.19	6.05	...	5.30	7.99
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	6.09	3.98	5.69	5.24	5.17	4.49	6.19	...	6.49
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	4.44	3.54	3.64	3.99	4.62	...	4.59	...	5.09
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	10.45	6.99	...	9.49	8.39	...	9.89	...	11.49
1 L SOFT DRINK	...	...	2.49	1.79	1.84	1.83	...	...	...

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

II. Average Food Prices:

Table 2 presents average retail prices for 38 specific items from the December 1998 Prices Monitoring Survey. Identical brands have been used for calculation of average prices, therefore prices are not available for all food items in all communities.

This table is not only an indicator of relative prices, but can also be used to indicate the degree of food selection available in each community. To highlight this, for the four largest communities in the survey, 36 of the 38 items listed were available for comparison to Winnipeg prices. In contrast, only 19 of the 38 items were available in the South Indian Lake store in December 1998. Selection is also indicated to be relatively poor in Grand Rapids (24 of 38 items matched), God's Lake Narrows (25 items matched), Island Lake (27 items matched), Wabowden (28 items matched) and Churchill (29 items matched).

The number of items matched to Winnipeg also has ramifications for the validity of the indices calculated. In general, fewer matches for a community will result in a less valid food price index, because each item matched has a greater relative contribution to the community index.

Brandon had the lowest price for one litre of Homogenized Milk at $1.25, followed by Winnipeg at $1.26 and Flin Flon at $1.27. Island Lake presented the highest cost for this item at $2.79 followed by Churchill at $1.83. One litre cartons of homogenized milk were not available in God's Lake Narrows at the time of the survey.

Winnipeg had the lowest price for one pound of Butter (454 grams) at $2.89. Butter averaged $2.92 per pound in Brandon and $4.19 per pound in Berens River. Everywhere else it was between $3.00 and $4.00; the highest being $3.99 in Island Late and $3.94 in Norway House.

A five kilogram bag of White All Purpose Flour ranged from a low of $6.19 in Brandon to a high of $11.19 in Berens River. The second lowest price was $6.42 in Winnipeg and the second highest price was $10.39 in Churchill. The price of flour was also relatively high in South Indian Lake and Lynn Lake (both $9.49) and Flin Flon ($9.29).

Elbow Macaroni (500 grams box) was priced the lowest in Winnipeg ($1.34) and Brandon ($1.49), and highest in Flin Flon ($1.94), Norway House (1.97), Berens River ($1.99), The Pas ($2.04) and Island Lake ($2.19). This item was unavailable in God's Lake Narrows at the time of the survey.

The price of a particular brand of Margarine (907 grams) was lowest in Winnipeg ($4.17) and Brandon ($4.64), and highest in Churchill ($5.99) and Island Lake ($7.19). This item was also unavailable in God's Lake Narrows.

One litre of Cooking Oil sold for $3.64 in Thompson, $3.76 in Grand Rapids and $3.79 in Winnipeg and Brandon. Highest prices were $5.09 in God's Lake Narrows, $5.49 in Berens River and $5.59 in Island Lake.

The lowest prices for Ground Beef (regular) were $2.60 per kilogram in Winnipeg, $2.83 in Brandon, $3.17 in Thompson and $3.18 in The Pas. The highest prices were $4.79 in Lynn Lake, $5.69 in Churchill and $7.49 in God's Lake Narrows. No price was available for South Indian Lake.

TABLE 2: (Cont.) **AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD ITEMS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN	WINNIPEG
1 L MILK	1.55	1.55	1.44	1.50	...	1.35	1.33	1.45	1.26
454 G BUTTER	3.55	3.69	3.94	3.52	3.99	3.64	3.04	3.25	2.89
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	6.85	7.45	7.49	7.22	7.35	6.99	5.99	...	6.06
525 G CORN FLAKES	...	...	4.29	4.29	...	4.39	3.20	4.39	3.15
5 KG FLOUR	8.65	9.49	8.99	8.69	9.49	8.04	7.94	7.99	6.42
500 G MACARONI	1.65	1.89	1.97	1.79	1.89	2.04	1.69	1.89	1.34
675 G WHITE BREAD	2.65	2.45	...	2.49	...	2.19	...	1.85	1.99
907 G MARGARINE	5.35	5.75	5.49	5.44	...	4.99	4.79	...	4.17
1 L COOKING OIL	...	4.99	4.52	4.57	4.85	4.09	3.64	...	3.79
1 KG ROUND STEAK	11.59	8.99	...	...	...	8.80	8.80	9.25	7.98
1 KG BLADE ROAST	5.49	6.39	7.19	...	...	...	6.02	...	6.48
1 KG STEWING BEEF	...	7.39	7.04	6.62	...	8.80	5.09	5.85	6.05
1 KG GROUND BEEF	4.09	4.79	4.76	3.70	...	3.18	3.17	4.37	2.60
500 G BACON	...	4.69	4.44	3.79	...	3.89	4.29	...	4.19
1 KG PORK CHOPS	...	5.99	7.14	6.78	7.59	6.99	8.72	6.45	...
450 G WEINERS	3.59	...	3.04	3.79	...	2.84	3.64	...	3.37
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.15	3.25	3.29	3.09	2.99	3.79	2.99	3.39	2.87
1 KG CHICKEN	6.09	5.59	5.35	4.39	...	5.95	4.71	4.29	4.50
213 G PINK SALMON	...	...	...	2.39	...	2.69	2.19	2.39	1.99
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	1.99	2.19	2.59	2.02	2.59	2.29	1.88	2.20	1.63
1 KG ORANGES	...	2.53	2.19	2.48	...	2.99	2.16	2.59	2.18
1 KG APPLES	2.62	3.19	2.73	...	...	2.40	2.17	2.49	1.94
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	1.95	2.19	2.24	1.99	2.25	2.19	1.99	...	1.92
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.15	2.19	1.69	2.19	2.25	1.89	1.74	1.75	1.69
4.54 KG POTATOES	3.59	4.29	2.94	3.67	...	2.99	3.69	3.49	2.60
1 HEAD LETTUCE	1.39	1.29	0.94	1.07	1.75	1.09	0.99	1.09	1.23
907 G CARROTS	1.29	1.29	0.99	1.27	1.79	...	0.99	0.99	1.39
1.36 KG ONIONS	1.69	1.28	1.74	1.89	...	1.59	1.39	1.19	1.27
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.45	1.65	1.69	1.69	1.65	1.79	1.39	...	1.21
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.19	1.45	1.32	1.44	1.55	1.39	1.09	1.45	0.95
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	2.85	3.35	3.19	3.99	3.45	2.79	2.89	...	2.77
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.09	1.49	1.29	1.37	1.19	1.19	0.99	1.49	0.99
284 ML CANNED SOUP	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.94	...	0.44	0.79	1.25	0.44
4 KG SUGAR	5.99	6.69	5.09	6.42	6.69	5.19	4.59	5.99	4.06
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	5.19	5.19	5.29	4.99	...	5.39	4.24	5.19	4.11
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	3.95	4.29	4.39	4.04	4.25	4.69	3.89	4.39	3.91
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	7.29	8.99	9.17	9.39	...	7.24	...	...	6.16
1 L SOFT DRINK	1.79	2.14	1.92	1.75	1.75	1.59	1.44	1.99	1.29

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

The lowest prices for Pork Chops (family pack) were in Flin Flon ($5.37 per kilogram), Gillam ($5.69) and Lynn Lake ($5.99). Pork chops were most costly in Thompson ($8.72 per kilogram), Berens River ($9.04) and Island Lake ($11.19). Family pack pork chops were not priced in Winnipeg or God's Lake Narrows in December 1998.

The average price for Chicken (whole cut-up, per kilogram) ranged from $4.29 in Wabowden and $4.39 in Brandon and Snow Lake, ($4.50 in Winnipeg) to $6.89 in God's Lake Narrows and $8.39 in Island Lake.

The price for one dozen Eggs (large) ranged from $1.63 in Winnipeg, $1.79 in Brandon and $1.88 in Thompson, to $2.89 in God's Lake Narrows and $3.39 in Island Lake.

Medium sized navel Oranges were priced at $2.16 per kilogram in Thompson, $2.18 in Winnipeg and Brandon, $2.19 in Norway House, and up to $4.49 in Island Lake and $5.11 in Berens River. Oranges matching this description were not priced in God's Lake Narrows.

A ten pound bag of Red Potatoes (4.54 kilogram) was priced lowest in Winnipeg at $2.60, and Brandon at $2.74. Highest prices were $4.29 in Lynn Lake, $6.49 in Churchill, $6.54 in Berens River, $8.99 in God's Lake Narrows and $10.99 in Island Lake. Elsewhere, the price of ten pounds of potatoes ranged from $2.94 in Norway House to $3.69 in Thompson.

A 907 gram bag of Carrots was priced lowest in Brandon at $0.98, and Norway House, Thompson and Wabowden at $0.99. Two pounds of Carrots was most expensive in Island Lake at $2.99, followed by God's Lake Narrows at $2.69 and Berens River at $2.42. The average price in Winnipeg was $1.39.

A one kilogram bag of frozen French Fries was priced at $2.69 in Brandon, $2.77 in Winnipeg, $2.79 in The Pas, $2.85 in Leaf Rapids and $2.89 in Thompson and Flin Flon. Highest recorded prices were $4.49 in God's Lake Narrows and $4.54 in Berens River. This item was not available in Island Lake at the time of the survey.

Macaroni and Cheese Dinners ranged in price from $0.99 in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, to $1.79 in God's Lake Narrows and $1.89 in Island Lake.

The price of a four kilogram bag of White Sugar was lowest in Brandon ($3.99), Winnipeg ($4.06) and Thompson ($4.59). Sugar was priced highest in Lynn Lake and South Indian Lake (both $6.69), Berens River ($6.74) and Island Lake ($7.99). No price was available for God's Lake Narrows.

The price of a 200 gram jar of Instant Coffee was lowest in Winnipeg at $6.16, followed by Brandon at $6.99 and The Pas at $7.24. Coffee was most expensive in Island Lake at $11.49, followed by Berens River at $10.45 and God's Lake Narrows at $9.89.

The price of a one litre Soft Drink averaged $1.29 in Winnipeg, with the next lowest price being $1.44 in Thompson. Highest prices were $1.99 in Wabowden, $2.14 in Lynn Lake and $2.49 in Churchill. No prices were available for name brand one litre soft drinks in Brandon, God's Lake Narrows or Island Lake.

APPENDIX

1997 SURVEY RESULTS

TABLE 3: SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDEXES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1997

FOOD GROUPS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
	(WINNIPEG = 100.0)								
DAIRY PRODUCTS	166.7	102.2	139.6	127.4	115.3	127.9	195.9	120.8	207.7
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUC	154.8	103.7	125.4	124.5	116.9	112.6	158.6	108.5	157.7
FATS & OILS	130.7	101.8	135.9	123.7	116.7	108.5	132.5	115.6	159.0
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	128.8	101.3	118.7	114.7	112.3	116.5	138.0	118.5	133.4
Meat	132.7	101.0	119.4	114.0	115.0	115.2	151.8	119.9	131.6
Poultry	118.5	102.1	113.7	116.6	106.0	126.1	94.1	113.7	140.3
Fish	123.2	101.6	123.3	115.7	106.3	107.2	130.1	118.4	132.5
EGGS	127.3	100.1	122.0	130.5	111.6	113.3	182.6	130.8	191.2
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	169.7	104.4	146.0	127.3	118.7	130.1	189.1	126.0	230.0
Fresh Fruit	164.7	107.4	146.4	121.3	117.1	140.8	175.3	125.6	225.3
Processed Fruit	155.1	104.6	146.5	121.6	121.9	109.1	164.0	112.1	191.6
Fresh Vegetables	193.4	100.7	147.8	138.4	117.9	137.5	227.1	135.9	274.4
Processed Vegetables	143.1	105.7	132.5	126.2	119.6	116.3	172.0	128.4	190.3
FROZEN FOODS	157.1	100.3	141.8	136.7	117.1	118.5	155.8	127.7	195.5
DISHES & SNACKS	162.5	105.1	140.2	137.5	124.7	140.4	176.5	136.3	195.9
OTHER FOODS	141.6	100.7	139.5	127.3	120.2	123.7	164.7	118.2	179.5
BEVERAGES	152.7	102.6	176.3	140.2	139.2	138.4	186.0	122.4	208.3
COMMUNITY INDEX	150.5	102.4	137.0	125.4	118.6	123.3	167.6	119.7	180.7

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

TABLE 3: (Cont.) **SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDEXES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1997

FOOD GROUPS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN
				(WINNIPEG = 100.0)				
DAIRY PRODUCTS	123.4	130.7	124.9	129.0	149.6	117.6	111.3	129.8
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUC	113.7	129.7	120.8	122.8	145.6	111.9	110.8	116.6
FATS & OILS	115.6	128.5	122.1	124.8	149.5	115.9	107.7	137.9
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	114.0	113.7	111.0	107.2	138.4	109.2	110.2	111.2
Meat	112.5	112.6	111.6	106.5	140.3	108.4	113.4	114.4
Poultry	119.2	116.2	106.9	105.6	...	105.8	101.5	98.9
Fish	114.7	116.2	115.0	114.2	126.3	120.7	105.1	113.1
EGGS	111.7	124.4	125.6	124.3	129.2	129.6	104.5	124.9
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	134.5	144.7	126.3	123.0	150.2	122.6	113.0	130.8
Fresh Fruit	140.5	148.2	121.4	118.2	132.5	124.0	116.3	124.1
Processed Fruit	121.4	134.5	128.2	123.8	141.1	118.5	109.7	140.5
Fresh Vegetables	142.7	150.6	130.7	125.8	178.8	125.1	113.0	127.3
Processed Vegetables	115.6	136.2	125.2	129.3	140.9	118.2	109.2	144.4
FROZEN FOODS	120.9	130.1	133.8	129.4	172.2	117.8	110.8	119.9
DISHES & SNACKS	134.7	148.3	147.3	136.0	164.9	122.5	111.5	146.6
OTHER FOODS	124.8	138.7	127.3	130.4	144.0	119.6	107.8	140.3
BEVERAGES	137.1	157.5	139.9	138.0	186.1	141.2	107.9	145.3
COMMUNITY INDEX	122.9	132.3	123.3	122.4	150.5	118.4	110.4	125.7

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

TABLE 4: AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1997

FOOD ITEMS	[illegible]	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
1 L MILK	...	1.27	...	1.47	1.27	1.46	2.55	1.35	2.79
454 G BUTTER	3.55	2.89	3.29	3.33	3.19	3.31	3.69	3.30	3.99
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	7.69	6.09	...	7.24	7.82	6.29	7.69	...	7.99
525 G CORN FLAKES	3.99	3.49	4.19	4.09	...	...	4.49	...	4.39
5 KG FLOUR	8.74	6.89	10.33	8.54	9.77	8.55	...	...	7.59
500 G MACARONI	2.04	1.59	1.49	1.94	1.84	...	2.09	...	2.29
450 G WHITE BREAD	...	1.03	1.49	...	1.09	...	...	...	...
907 G MARGARINE	...	4.04	...	5.09	4.89	4.59	...	...	6.39
1 L COOKING OIL	5.07	3.54	4.72	4.59	4.24	3.59	5.09	...	5.59
1 KG ROUND STEAK	10.77	11.66	9.89	11.05	10.98	...	...	...	...
1 KG BLADE ROAST	...	6.59	...	6.85	...	7.89	...	..	8.99
1 KG GROUND BEEF	7.25	3.51	5.69	4.81	4.25	...	7.59	5.32	...
500 G BACON	...	5.14	...	5.49	...	4.69	...	...	...
1 KG PORK CHOPS	9.17	7.58	9.49	8.77	7.49	6.99	...	...	10.39
500 G PORK SAUSAGES	4.69	3.49	...	3.79	...	4.79	4.39	...	4.39
450 G WEINERS	...	3.59	3.69	3.57	...	...	...	...	...
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.52	2.59	3.09	3.49	3.02	2.75	3.45	3.04	3.49
1 KG CHICKEN	5.93	4.37	5.49	5.11	4.32	4.99	...	4.54	...
213 G PINK SALMON	...	1.89	...	...	...	1.75	...	...	...
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	2.24	1.75	2.09	2.24	1.97	1.99	2.89	2.30	3.39
1 KG ORANGES	3.19	...	2.39	2.71	...	...	2.82	2.16	3.49
1 KG APPLES	3.30	2.42	2.60	2.71	2.29	2.89	4.65	2.51	4.99
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	2.31	1.71	1.99	2.09	2.04	1.94	2.39	...	2.79
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.55	1.79	2.24	2.20	1.87	...	2.59	...	3.69
4.54 KG POTATOES	5.69	3.59	5.14	4.14	4.44	4.15	10.39	4.58	...
1 HEAD LETTUCE	2.34	1.03	1.39	1.37	1.59	1.09	2.69	1.44	2.49
907 G CARROTS	2.27	0.90	1.09	1.24	0.99	1.39	2.79	1.19	1.99
1.36 KG ONIONS	2.05	0.93	2.59	1.54	1.34	...	...	1.78	...
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.49	1.29	1.69	1.49	1.44	1.49	...	...	...
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.79	0.98	...	1.34	1.24	1.15	1.69	...	...
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	3.99	2.59	...	3.04	2.74	...	4.49	2.64	4.89
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.19	0.97	1.55	1.27	1.17	1.35	1.59	1.20	1.79
284 ML CANNED SOUP	0.87	0.63	0.95	0.89	0.85	0.79	1.09	...	1.49
4 KG SUGAR	5.79	3.94	6.52	6.24	5.44	6.35	7.89	5.53	5.79
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	5.85	4.09	...	4.99	5.09	4.49	5.69	...	6.49
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	4.34	3.33	4.09	3.89	4.14	3.05	4.59	3.77	4.79
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	...	5.83	10.69	10.89	...	9.05	9.89	...	10.99
1 L SOFT DRINK	2.01	1.29	2.49	1.79	1.84	1.83	3.69	1.44	3.19

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

TABLE 4: (Cont.) **AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1997

FOOD ITEMS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN	WINNIPEG
1 L MILK	1.49	1.55	1.47	1.49	...	1.35	1.32	1.45	1.26
454 G BUTTER	3.25	3.49	3.47	3.71	3.85	3.14	3.34	3.25	3.03
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	6.59	7.23	7.17	6.99	...	6.99	6.29	...	6.19
525 G CORN FLAKES	...	...	4.12	4.19	...	...	3.59	...	3.49
5 KG FLOUR	9.25	9.45	9.69	8.69	7.95	6.39	6.94	7.99	6.89
500 G MACARONI	1.65	1.89	1.84	1.79	2.39	1.99	1.59	...	1.33
450 G WHITE BREAD	...	...	...	1.35	1.50	1.09	1.39	...	0.99
907 G MARGARINE	5.05	5.45	5.39	5.32	...	5.29	4.39	...	3.84
1 L COOKING OIL	3.95	4.69	4.74	3.74	4.30	3.49	3.99	...	3.85
1 KG ROUND STEAK	11.59	...	9.99	...	12.15	10.33	...	9.25	10.65
1 KG BLADE ROAST	6.59	6.98	8.69	...	...	6.95	...	7.35	6.79
1 KG GROUND BEEF	4.09	4.79	5.44	4.29	7.10	4.87	3.97	5.35	2.89
500 G BACON	4.89	4.99	4.99	4.54	3.99	4.74	4.29	...	4.59
1 KG PORK CHOPS	8.59	7.39	7.64	10.14	...	7.49	7.77	9.25	9.49
500 G PORK SAUSAGES	3.65	...	3.89	...	...	...	3.69	...	3.49
450 G WEINERS	3.59	3.65	2.99	3.14	...	2.79	3.69	...	3.54
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.15	3.25	3.59	2.54	3.79	2.29	2.99	3.29	2.73
1 KG CHICKEN	5.04	5.79	4.70	4.79	...	4.86	...	4.14	4.09
213 G PINK SALMON	2.35	...	2.09	...	...	1.99	1.99	...	1.65
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	1.99	2.19	2.24	2.02	2.35	2.14	1.87	2.20	1.76
1 KG ORANGES	2.40	2.60	1.96	2.15	2.25	...	2.06	...	2.06
1 KG APPLES	2.84	3.06	2.26	2.39	2.79	2.43	2.62	...	2.07
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	1.95	2.09	2.12	1.99	2.09	2.19	1.83	...	1.76
1 L ORANGE JUICE	1.95	2.19	2.15	2.19	...	2.29	1.59	2.15	1.56
4.54 KG POTATOES	...	4.29	3.94	3.77	6.95	4.19	2.89	3.89	2.49
1 HEAD LETTUCE	2.99	2.09	1.32	1.37	1.50	1.29	1.49	1.69	1.06
907 G CARROTS	0.99	1.39	1.35	0.99	1.60	1.09	0.93	0.89	0.95
1.36 KG ONIONS	1.95	1.36	1.29	1.47	2.20	1.34	1.13	1.19	0.92
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.45	...	1.69	1.32	1.59	1.39	1.39	1.59	1.29
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.09	1.39	1.15	1.19	1.49	1.39	0.99	1.45	0.91
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	2.75	3.35	2.94	3.14	...	2.74	2.59	2.89	2.56
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.09	1.55	1.27	1.25	1.40	1.19	0.99	1.49	0.83
284 ML CANNED SOUP	0.89	0.95	0.85	0.89	0.90	0.89	0.67	0.95	0.59
4 KG SUGAR	6.15	6.89	5.24	5.84	...	5.39	4.49	6.39	4.16
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	5.19	5.19	4.57	4.99	...	4.99	4.49	5.19	3.83
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	3.77	4.05	4.02	3.97	4.09	3.42	3.49	3.99	3.18
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	8.39	...	9.67	7.96	...	8.52	6.99	...	6.41
1 L SOFT DRINK	1.79	1.99	1.87	1.80	...	1.95	1.43	1.99	1.24

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY